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## THE ROBIN ACACIA.

Among the arboreal antiquities of the Jardin des Plantes, in Paris, is a venerable acacia, the first that was ever brought to Europe. This acacia, known to botanists by the name of *Robinia pseudo-acacia*, was planted where it now grows by Vespasian Robin, son of

gardens at that period. The following is the inscription on the label attached to this interesting memorial of the first establishment of the gardens :—“*Robinia pseudo-acacia* (North America). First acacia grown in Europe ; planted by Vespasian Robin in 1635.”



THE ROBIN ACACIA (*ROBINIA PSEUDO-ACACIA*).

John Robin, who obtained it from North America, the tree having been previously unknown in Europe. The planting of the tree was coincident with the definitive institution of the Royal Garden by an edict of Louis XIII., which was registered in parliament in May, 1635 ; and it is now the only survivor of the trees planted in the

It was Linnæus who gave the genus *Robinia* the name under which the species composing it are known to all botanists of the present day, and which recalls the numerous services rendered to botany and gardening by John Robin, the celebrated author of the “Jardin du Roi Henri IV.”